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## Editorials: Our Opinions

### Chester Bowles: Man Caught in the Muddle

RUMORS that Chester Bowles, undersecretary of state, would be ousted, have proved to be somewhat exaggerated, or perhaps somewhat premature.

Thus has occurred the first major rhubarb over personnel in the topsides of the Kennedy administration. Heads might well have rolled after the Cuban invasion fiasco, but so far none have, although there have been quiet shifts at the top and there undoubtedly will be some resignations within a few months, Central Intelligence Agency director Allen Dulles' among them.

Chester Bowles has been portrayed by Washington correspondents as a disappointed and unhappy man, whose ideas have not been given much currency by the President. He is a man of many ideas about foreign policy, but in his job he is restricted to the routine of running the State Department.

He is not only subordinate to Secretary of State Dean Rusk (who really could use a second-in-command more interested in

administration of the Department than in policy-making) but to a number of special foreign policy advisors and roving ambassadors. To put it bluntly, the Kennedy administration has too many policy-making chiefs, and not enough policy-executing Indians.

Mr. Bowles, a successful former ambassador to India, was opposed to the Cuban adventure (and was indiscreet enough to say so). He favors more aid to underdeveloped countries and support for the newly emerging nations at the expense of such NATO allies as Portugal. He is one of the few men who publicly urges a change in our moribund China policy.

He has not been consulted on a number of issues, including the Berlin question, on which his advice might well have been valuable since it runs counter to the thinking of other top Kennedy lieutenants.

Mr. Bowles has made enemies for other reasons, too, according to a report by Wallace Carroll,

New York Times correspondent in Washington. His stand on U.S. policy toward China has already led some congressmen to charge he is "soft" on Communist China—a sheer tactic. Moreover, his Foreign Service subordinates resent the fact that his job is not held by a career man and feel slighted in the selection of ambassadors.

An early backer of President Kennedy, Mr. Bowles gave up his seat in Congress to work full-time in the Kennedy campaign. But to his fellow politicians from Connecticut, Abraham Ribicoff, went a Cabinet post, the secretaryship of health, education and welfare.

It is inevitable that some will fall by the wayside in the thick, downy cruels of any new administration. Mr. Bowles, despite his many attainments, unfortunately is not cut out to be just a vice president in charge of administration. But maybe his foreign policy ideas are worth listening to: If so, he should have some other forum than which to air them.